

Minimum Requirements to Conduct Burning

1. A Valid Burn Permit
2. Burning confined to daylight hours on days when open burning is permitted by air quality and Fire District regulatory authorities: Please call the Burn Day Information line at (503) 397-4800 to ensure it is a burn day
3. One person must be in attendance at all times, until the fire is completely extinguished
4. A garden hose, or a shovel and a 5 gallon bucket of water
5. A clear area around the burn site that will prevent your fire from escape
6. A fire break constructed around the burn site to prevent the fire from creeping to adjoining fuels
7. Yard and garden trimmings must be cut and placed into manageable piles
8. All combustible material shall be dried to the extent practical to prevent emission of excessive smoke. Grass clippings are NOT allowed to be burned

9. Clearances:

Burn Barrels (where allowed): A fifteen (15) foot minimum clearance from structures, trees, vehicles, or property lines.

Burn Piles: For piles larger than three (3) feet in diameter, maintain a minimum of fifty (50) feet clearance to structures, trees, vehicles, or property lines. For piles smaller than three (3) feet, a minimum of twenty five (25) feet clearance is required.

Home Heating Safety Tips

- Always use the proper fuel for each heater. Using non-approved fuels can be extremely dangerous
- Never attempt to accelerate a fire with kerosene or gasoline. They will both “flash back” to the container with serious burn consequences
- Be sure your space heater, fireplace, or wood stove is in good working condition. Clean your chimney at least once a year to prevent chimney fires
- Maintain adequate clearance around all heating devices to ensure combustible material will clear. Also, be sure to use a screen with your fireplace and avoid creating roaring fires, which could ignite soot in your chimney



Bill Goodwin, Fire Marshal

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Information Current as of June 2009

Your Guide to Open Burning



Columbia River Fire & Rescue



Burn Day Information (503) 397-4800

Open Burning Permit Regulations

Please follow these directions carefully. By policy of the District Board of Directors, Columbia River Fire & Rescue may bill for all illegal fires. The **minimum** response charge is \$250.00. Municipal fines also apply within the city limits of St Helens and Columbia County.

I. Burning Permits:

- A. As required by ORS 478.960, burning permits shall be required for all open burning in the Columbia River Fire & Rescue service area, with the exception of small recreational fires.
- B. It is the policy of Columbia River Fire & Rescue to issue permits for a period of one (1) year from date of issue. Special Permits for land clearing (3 miles beyond the city limits of St Helens) and agricultural field burning shall be valid for a period of three (3) days from the date of issue. Hazard Abatement Permits shall be valid only for the day of the burn.
- C. No person shall cause or allow to be initiated or maintained, any open burning which is prohibited by any rule of the Fire District, State Statute, or Local Ordinance.

- D. Property Owners and Operators who are conducting illegal burning may be cited and fined for such action (ORS 479.990, Oregon Fire Code § 109.3.1, and applicable City Ordinance). Cost recovery for fire suppression may also be charged (ORS 478.965).
- E. Open burning in violation of any rule of Columbia River Fire & Rescue shall be promptly extinguished by the person in attendance or the person responsible when notified to extinguish the fire by either the Fire District or other appropriate agency official.
- F. Any burning permit that has been issued by the Fire District may be revoked at any time for any violation of burning regulations.
- G. Open burning authorized by these rules does not exempt or excuse any person from liability or consequences, damages, or injuries resulting from burning, nor does it exempt any person from complying with applicable laws, ordinances, or regulations of other governmental agencies having jurisdiction.
- H. Burning permits will not be issued to businesses, churches, industries, institutions, building contractors or multi-dwelling sites.

Examples of Illegal Burning:

1. No valid burning permit
2. Burning before or after established burning hours
3. Not complying with minimum requirements as stated in Section IA
4. Any fire that has escaped
5. Burning on a designated NO BURN DAY
6. Burning of commercial or industrial waste
7. Land clearing within 3 miles of the city limits
8. Open burning of any waste materials which normally emit dense smoke, noxious odors, or which may tend to create a public nuisance such as, but not limited to: household garbage, plastics, grass clippings, auto bodies, asphalt, waste, petroleum products, rubber products, animal remains, and animal or vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking, or service of food
9. Running fires and building removal will not be allowed, unless a special permit is issued
10. Any burning in an approved barrel* within 15 feet from a tree, vehicle, structure, or property line

***Please Note: Burn Barrels are prohibited in the Cities of St Helens and Columbia City, by local ordinance**